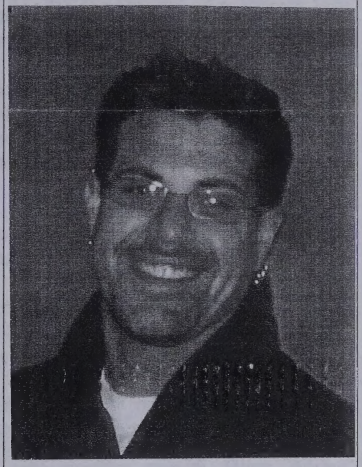
PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P.O. Box 10076
Colorado Springs, CO 80932
Hotline: (719) 575-8658

Keeping Families Strong

July, 2007

August PFLAG Meeting to Feature Discussion with LGBTQ Counselor



Brent Heinze has worked with diverse populations in residential treatment, psychiatric counseling, and the corrections industry. In 2006, he opened Perspective Shift in Colorado Springs, working with adults, adolescents, children and families.

The mission of the practice is to help individuals to make changes in their lives and support progress towards their personal goals. Brent offers innovative techniques designed to assist an individual to gain perspective on his or her unique strengths.

Although his practice has diversified to include services for post-incarceration, PTSD, domestic violence, and general mental health clients, Brent continues to focus primarily on working with the GLBTQ community and promoting increased awareness relating to that population.

The topics to be discussed during the meeting will center on emotional and mental health related issues that can have adverse affects on a GLBTQ individual's life and the importance of maintaining a strong support network. This discussion-based session is designed to provide an environment to explore the negative impact of family and societal influences on GLBTQ individuals and show how increased awareness can lead to stronger support. We invite you to be part of a safe environment for individuals to explore personal beliefs and possible biases relating to the GLBTQ community, as well as exploration into the various challenges these people face on a daily basis.

~~JULY~~ AUG
PFLAG CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday
~~July~~ Aug 21, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Program:

"Perspective Shift"

A conversation with Counselor Brent Heinze

Small Group Discussion

Coffee and Dessert

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome.

Lavender Film Festival Kicks Off with Spanish Tango

A short Spanish film titled "Milonga Gay", featuring tango dancing in the only gay tango dance hall in the world, followed by the American comedy "Out at the Wedding" will be presented at the opening night of the Lavender Film Festival on Friday, September 14. The evening will feature a catered reception, and always sells out in advance—so get your tickets early. The three-day festival will take place in our gloriously remodeled Fine Arts Center September 14-16, and tickets for this year's festival are being sold exclusively through the Fine Arts Center box office. More information will be in the next PFLAG newsletter. In the meantime, a big advance thank you to Alma Cremonsei and her band of volunteers for providing this 8th annual LGBTQ film festival!

PrideFest a Success

Thanks to everyone who helped to make PrideFest in Colorado Springs such a success this year! Acacia Park was filled all day with people enjoying the celebration on a hot July Sunday.

Special thanks go to the Pride Center for a beautifully well-organized event, to Out Loud its wonderful voices, and to our PFLAG volunteers, Marilyn, Patti, Tom, Sally, Karen, Eva, Jay, Lori and Jeanette for marching in the parade and helping staff the PFLAG booth. We raised $80 in sales and donations.

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

PFLAG Mission Statement:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) persons, their families and friends through:

√ **support**, to cope with an adverse society,
√ **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
√ **advocacy**, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

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PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.

Membership is not required.
All are welcome.

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To join the chapter and receive the newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please call PFLAG at 575-8658.

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PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Always Remember

That our PFLAG meetings and conversations are

... Confidential.

Scholinski Launches a Sent(a)Mental Project— A Memorial to GLBTIQ Suicides

" I am not a stranger to the issues brought up here. Unfortunately, I have lost many people to suicide over the years—and it is with this inspiration that I launch a new project. The **Sent(a)Mental Memorial Project** — and as the Names Project (the AIDS quilt) or the National Organization of Women's Clotheline Project which documents violence against women — the Sent(a) Mental Project hopes to bring visibility to mental health issues and much needed attention to the thousands of people lost within our community over the years due to a lack of dialogue around these issues. This is an invitation to send stories and pictures to be included in this project about anyone else that comes to mind or lives in your heart.

"In addition to pieces about those who have successfully committed suicide, I am including another section for survivor stories. I want to hear about and from GLBTIQ people who have survived attempts as well as from those who have loved us. I feel it is important for all of us to be represented and heard.

"I welcome a variety of expressions. Examples might include painting, drawings, poetry, stories, photos, music or even just a name and dates. Please send me anything you would like in whatever form you find easiest to express yourself."

Dylan Scholinski
P.O. Box 13559
Denver, CO 80201

About the artist: Born Daphne Scholinski, as a young girl growing up in the Chicago suburbs she played first base in Little League and preferred drawing to playing with dolls. When she was 15 years old she was locked up in a mental hospital, diagnosed as an "inappropriate female", and spent the rest of her high school years undergoing extreme femininity training. At 18, her insurance ran out and she was discharged.

Now 40 years old, Dylan Scholinski resides in Denver, Colorado, and is a distinguished artist, public speaker and author, best known for **The Last Time I wore a Dress: A Memoir**—published by Penguin/Putnam, 1998. Dylan has appeared on 20/20. Dateline and today to discuss his experiences and has been featured in a variety of newspaper and magazine articles. His work not only portrays the anguish of his hospital years but also his ultimate triumph.

Book Review:

Always My Child: a parent's guide to understanding your gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning son or daughter by Kevin Jennings, 2003

This book is filled with real life stories, scientific research and practical advice for parents. Jennings draws on his own experience growing up in a disapproving Southern Baptist atmosphere and uses stories of real individuals to help parents recognize and understand the myths of sexual orientation.

He encourages them to be alert to warning signs of drug abuse, depression, eating disorders and potential suicide and shows them how they may unwittingly perpetuate gender stereotypes. A parents seek to understand their GLBT children, they must confront and overcome their own prejudices.

Rainbow Cook Fest Seeks Amateur Cooks

The Rainbow Cook Fest, which takes place on Saturday, September 22, 6-9 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Fund, will be a GLBT community coming together event featuring samples of palate pleasing pleasures prepared by Pikes Peak amateur cooks competing for prizes in categories of appetizers, entrees, desserts and "Other".

The event is sponsored by the Pikes Peak Fund for Tolerance & Equality. Meet community leaders who will judge food entries and award great prizes.

Complimentary beer, wine and soda will be served. A $10 door fee, with all money going to the winning cook's designated charity, buys you tickets to vote for your favorite food entries.

Cooks must prepare enough food to provide 100 services of approximately 1 ounce each. Do we have one or more PFLAG cooks who would like to participate? The registration deadline is September 7, 2007. Forms are available at the Gay & Lesbian Fund offices, 315 East Costilla Street.

If you would rather eat than cook, be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Local Delegates Will Attend National PFLAG Convention

Marilyn Davis and Patti Barton will represent our chapter at the PFLAG national convention to be held in McLean, Virginia, near Washington D.C. from October 11-14, 2007.

Participants will hear such nationally known speakers as Bishop Gene Robinson, the first gay Episcopalian bishop, and will participate in Lobby Day on Capitol Hill, tour D.C. by night, and choose from over 50 workshops and lectures. Thank you to Marilyn and Patti for representing us!

Presidential Candidates in First Ever Debate of Gay Issues

On August 9th for the first time ever, candidates for the U.S. presidency held a televised debate devoted solely to LGBT issues. Organized by the gay television network Logo and HRC (The Human Rights Campaign), the debate was broadcast on LOGO.

Participants included Democrats Hilary Clinton, Barack Obama, John Edwards and Chris Dodd. Only Dennis Kucinich supported gay marriage. The Republican candidates were invited to participate as well, but all of them declined. See the story at www.npr.org.

Human Rights Campaign Reception, August 30th

"Socializing, Strategizing and Sipping" - HRC will hold a reception in Colorado Springs on August 30th with special guests Marty Rouse, HRC National Field Director and Georgie Aguirre-Sacasa, HRC Regional Field Director

As the summer heat is coming to an end, political fever is rising in Colorado. The 2008 elections are upon us. The Democratic National Convention is just around the corner and the fight for equality continues.

Join HRC Colorado to catch up on what's happening in Colorado and across the country. Learn about HRC's current fight in Washington around Federal Hate Crimes protections, Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) and Don't Ask, Don't Tell legislation.

Curious or ready to commit -- Join HRC and local leaders for a dialogue on what is coming up for Colorado. Email lapurvis@comcast.net to RSVP and for more information and directions to the host's residence in the vicinity of Garden of the Gods.

Inside/ Out Youth Services Pantry Needs Food Items

Inside/Out Youth Services provides support and a safe meeting space for GLBTIQ (gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning) youth, ages 13 to 22.

Dr. Deborah Surat, Executive Director, reports that the group needs ongoing donations of nonperishable food items for its pantry. She established the pantry when she realized that some of the youth were coming to meetings hungry and had few resources for food, since they no longer live at home.

PFLAG members are asked to bring food items to PFLAG meetings and we'll make sure they are delivered to I/O's pantry. Here are some of the items Dr. Surat has requested:

Tuna/cracker packets, pouches of tuna, canned meat, small containers of peanut butter (18 oz. or smaller), single serving microwavable containers of soup or macaroni and cheese, packets of crackers and cheese, nutrition bars, trail mix, and cookies, bottled water and Gatorade.

Refrigerator space is limited, so fresh fruits and vegetables are not encouraged at this time. However, monetary donations are accepted. Mail to Inside/Out Youth Services, 235 South Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, marked "for Food Pantry".

Website Update

Thank you to PFLAG volunteers Jay and Jason, who are working on updating the Colorado Springs PFLAG website!

In addition to our meeting and hotline information, we hope to have newsletters online soon.

BULLETIN BOARD

August 18-19—LGBT Pride Celebration in Pueblo. SCEA (Southern Colorado Equality Alliance) Dinner Aug 18 at Pueblo Convention Center. Pride Parade at noon, Aug. 19, followed by rally and evening party. For more information, call 719-564-4004.

September 14-16—Lavender Film Festival, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (see p. 1)

August 16—NetCORE Happy Hour 5:30 p.m. at Backroads Chiropractic, 716 West Brookside (Brookside at 8th Street). NetCoRe (Networking Community Resources) happy hour is a fun, relaxing and wonderfully social way to network within the gay community. No need to join, just show up, meet people and have fun. This is a great way for a business "advertise" for free, and for the GLBT community to seek out those friendly businesses!

August 30—Human Rights Campaign Reception "Socializing, Strategizing and Sipping" with HRC leaders (see article p. 3.)

September 22—Rainbow Cook Fest, 6-9 p.m., Gay and Lesbian Center (see p. 3).

October 11-14—PFLAG National Convention, Washington D.C. (see p. 3)

February 6-10, 2008— Creating Change Conference Sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Detroit, Michigan. NAACP Chair Julian Bond and Episcopal Bishops Eugene Robinson will be the keynote speakers. Info: www.thetaskforce.org

GOOD NEWS AND NOTES

New Poll shows 8 out of 10 Americans Favor Repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

US Newswire 6/27/07 - A new CNN/Opinion Research poll shows 79% support for repealing the military's "Don't Ask—Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual service members. Only 18% of respondents thought lesbian and gay service personnel should not be allowed to serve openly. A December 2006 poll found that 73% of troops surveyed are comfortable with lesbians and gays.

Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference Sponsored by Soulforce

Soulforce, in cooperation with Beyond ExGay.com and the LGBT Resource Center at the University of California-Irvine presented an Ex-Gay Survivor's conference June 29—July 1. The meeting was timed to coincide with the annual Exodus International Conference in Irvine, which promotes the false message that GLBT people are disordered, sinful and in need of change. The interactive, community building conference featured powerful stories of those who have had ex-gay experiences. Read more at www.soulforce.com

Soulforce Equality Riders Return Home Safely

Over 50 young people participated in the Soulforce Equality Rides this spring, visiting religious and military college campuses which are not supportive of LGBT students. Six of the schools on this year's route now have gay-straight alliances. An underground LGBT support group already existed at Pepperdine University and, given the energy generated for these issues during the Equality Ride visit, the administration granted the group a new hearing on achieving official group status.

To celebrate the arrival of the riders, Seattle and New York City proclaimed April 11 and 14, respectively, as the official Soulforce Equality Ride 2007 Day.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____

_____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

E-mail _____

____New member ____Renewing member

____ Regular Membership	$ 30
____ Supporting Member—Silver	40
____ Supporting Member—Gold	60
____ Supporting Member—Platinum	100

Amount Enclosed $_____

Each year our chapter must contribute $15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 10076, Colorado Springs, CO 80932. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization.